

PELLICLE DISTORTION REDUCTION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides systems and a method for reducing pellicle distortion.

One feature of the invention reduces distortion of a pellicle by providing an airtight
5 mounting structure for coupling a pellicle to a mask; and a port on the mounting structure
though which a pressure difference can be created between the interior portion and an
exterior environment. Hence, distortion can be reduced by controlling the pressure in the
interior portion between the pellicle, the pellicle mounting structure and the mask.

Another feature places an aerodynamic fairing adjacent the mask to reduce aerodynamic
10 drag and, hence, suppress turbulent air flow over the pellicle. The features can be used
separately or in combination.